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THE TACOMA NORTH WEST FACTS

FROM THE VOICE OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY

P.O. BOX 5501 TACOMA, WASHINGTON 98415 OFFICE (253) 383-3832 FAX (253) 295-4049 TACOMAFACTS@YAHOO.COM

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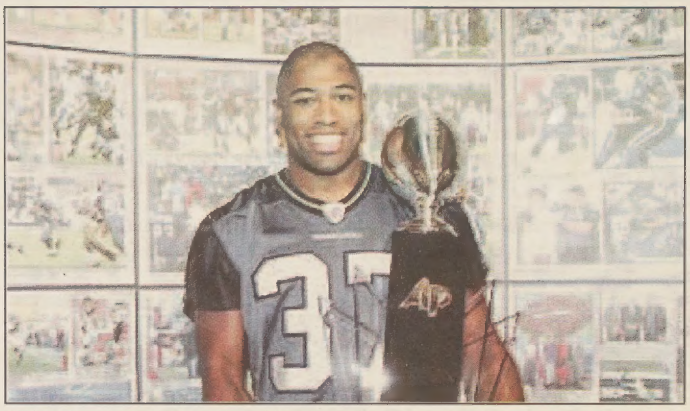
NFC CHAMPIONS *Hawk Fever Hits Detroit SUPER BOWLXL*



"I don't know, I just can't stop smiling, this was just a great feeling. I woke up this morning and went downstairs to get some breakfast and my wife turned on the news, which she never does, and said, 'Every channel is about us going to the Super Bowl.' This is an awesome feeling" and with that the NFL MVP winner Shaun Alexander continues to revel in his teams 34 to 14 NFC Championship win over the Carolina Panthers. The rest they say is history.

Yes Seattle, believe it, the Seattle Seahawks are headed to Detroit home of this years Super Bowl to play the Pittsburgh Steelers.This unlikely set of events came about because of a franchise that believed in them when others did not. The NFC"s number one team all season never really received the respect that other teams in similar position have. However, does it really matter now? When you have reached the mountaintop, do you become defiant, condescending and downright brash at your doubters? "Not at all", Shaun Alexander explained to the media on Monday. "Mike (Holmgren) said from the very beginning that we are always going to be the other team. We play against the Redskins and they talked about Joe Gibbs and his thing over Mike. Then we play against Carolina and had a team that really stuffs the run and now we play against Pittsburgh and even though they are a sixth seed, they are going to pick them over us. He said that from the very beginning that was going to happen. We win eleven games in a row and they say it was our fault that the other teams were not as good. We cannot worry about that. It is what is. We are just going to go out there and play." Well let us hope play they will; yes, this team has a chance to win the most sorts after prize in the world of sports. The hope is that this team is not content with getting to the Super bowl but rather winning it.

In addition, to stop all the rumors. The Facts Newspaper is not giving away an all expense paid trip to the Super Bowl for the first fan who answers a trivia question.

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African American Legislative Day

On Friday January 20th 2006 The day began quite early in the morning. Buses began loading passengers at 6:30 am. Beautiful, spacious, luxury buses were waiting to be filled. When the buses were loaded, we were off to Olympia.

When we arrived at the John L. O'Brien Building, we were treated to continental – style

Breakfast. There were workshops planned, and you had a choice. There was lots of greeting old friends, and making new friends. A full agenda was given to everyone. There was a special agenda for the Youth who attended. Workshops ran from 10:00 am till 11:15 am, and were quite lively. After the workshops, the Capitol Rotunda was the next stop, where the Elected Officials met us. Everyone attended the Program. Rosalund Jenkins, Executive Director of the Commission on African American Affairs, was the Mistress of Ceremonies. Gov. Christine Gregoire, gave a short but timely speech, "Don't forget the Dream". Senator Franklin, Pres. Pro-Tempore of the Senate, welcomed everyone and was visibly elated to see the many Young People in attendance. Newly appointed African American Commissioners and Current Commissioners were recognized. Lunch was served, and some took tours of the Capitol building, or went to some of the Capitol offices. The planning for this event was suburb. This audience for most of the sessions was orderly and respectful. To the Planning Committee, you did a fantastic job! Over 1500 people attended, if you missed this year, plan on coming next year, now.

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Gov. Gregoire Values: Responsibility, Opportunity and Service Governor outlines past accomplishments and urges legislators to work with her to "Build on Our Success"

Governor Chris Gregoire today delivered the annual "State of the State" address to legislators and other Washingtonians including former Governor Al Rosellini, Congressman Jay Inslee, Congressman Dave Reichert, King County Executive Ron Sims and members of the Consular Association of Washington.

"In the last year, I have been all around this great state and met a lot of people. I found their values and dreams are very similar," said Governor Gregoire. "They value personal responsibility, service to others and providing new opportunities for our kids and families."

Governor Gregoire highlighted accomplishments from the past year and urged legislators to "build on our success" by continuing improvements in education, health care, security and job creation.

"That foundation – the outstanding legislative session of 2005 – has already elevated Washington to a new level of opportunity," said Governor Gregoire. "So in the spirit of responsibility, opportunity and service, let's get to work and build on the foundation we created together last year."

Governor Gregoire has proposed, as a part of her supplemental budget, making targeted investments to improve early learning, help high school students meet state standards, clean up Puget Sound, help reduce dependence on foreign oil and provide heating assistance to low-income families. She will also set aside a portion of new revenue – a result of a growing economy – to address education and health care needs next year.

WE PRINT JUST THE FACTS

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Black Gay Rights Group Turns to Clergy to Push Tolerance

Churches have an obligation to help end the "poisoned atmosphere" surrounding the acceptance of homosexuals, the Rev. Al Sharpton said at a weekend summit organized by a national black gay rights group.

The group invited religious leaders to brainstorm ways to get their message of tolerance across to church leaders, who are some of the most influential figures in black communities. Several portrayed it as a civil rights issue.

"Our dialogue is the possibility of being acknowledged, loved and accepted. It can happen," said Donna Payne, vice president of the National Black Justice Coalition, composed of black lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender activists.Sharpton, a former Democratic presidential candidate who headlined Friday's start to the summit, said black church leaders need to acknowledge that homophobia affects everyone's civil rights.

"You cannot talk about civil rights and limit who's included in the civil rights movement," Sharpton told about 150 people at First Iconium Baptist Church.

He said it is every church's obligation to help end the "poisoned atmosphere" of acceptance of homosexuals. "The church should have a front seat in the car leading toward dialogue, leading toward tolerance," he said.

In 2004, a predominantly black Atlanta-area church where Martin Luther King Jr.'s daughter Bernice serves as an elder held a march calling for a national ban on gay marriage. The march's organizer, Bishop Eddie Long, said his followers "did not come in a march of hatred," but the event did not sit well with gay rights groups.

King's widow, Coretta Scott King, has called gay marriage a civil rights issue and denounced proposed amendments to ban it.

"History has shown that every time a church has gone on the side of exclusion, they have been wrong," said Pat Hussein, an activist and summit participant. "Hopefully there can be things made right."

The Rev. Kenneth Samuel, pastor of Victory Baptist Church in the Atlanta suburb of Stone Mountain, received a standing ovation when he called for equality for all people and an end to hate crimes targeting homosexuals.

"These are heart-wrenching issues," Samuel said. "Anytime we talk to people about identity or sense of values, we have to address them with passion and intellect along with their spirituality."

NAACP Launches Effort to Increase African American Graduation and College Readiness Rates

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) received a $200,000 grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The "Redesigning the American High School Initiative grant", will be used to support NAACP high school reform initiatives and to promote efforts to increase high school graduation rates for African American youth. The NAACP will be working with the foundation and the National Governor's Association (NGA) National Constituent Group to implement a national awareness campaign consisting of education and policy focused Capitol Hill briefings, guest speaker series, and "stay in school" events. The partnership will also produce regional and national education symposiums to develop strategies for increasing high school graduation rates.

Dr. Nicole Francis-Williams, NAACP Interim National Education Director, said, "The NAACP looks forward to this partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the NGA and we are serious about increasing graduation rates for African American students. Our Education department plans to actively impact strategies designed to increase teacher quality and improve school governance. Due to our ability to expand partnerships and utilize expertise in education, research and policy we will play an even more integral role in positively shaping the future for minority students and parents who depend on the NAACP to be their advocates." According to the Manhattan Institute, nearly one of every three public high school students fails to graduate. Forty-four percent of African American students will not graduate with their class. Of those who do graduate, most leave school without the skills they need to succeed in college, work, and citizenship. Jim Shelton, Program Director of Education, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, said, "Through this partnership with the NAACP, we will strengthen the support for innovative efforts to provide African American students with the education they need to graduate from high school ready for the challenges and opportunities of the future."Founded in 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization. Its half-million adult and youth members throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities and monitor equal opportunity in the public and private sectors.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (www.gatesfoundation.org) works to promote greater equity in four areas: global health, education, public libraries, and support for at-risk families in Washington state and Oregon. The Seattle-based foundation joins local, national, and international partners to ensure that advances in these areas reach those who need them most. The foundation is led by Bill Gates' father, William H. Gates, Sr., and Patty Stonesifer.

Public Housing Waiting List Is Opening

On January 25th through the 27th the Tacoma Housing Authority will be distributing applications for placement on the **Public Housing Waiting List.**

Families whose income is at or below the following income limits (50% Area Median Income) may apply.

1 person	2 persons	3 persons	4 persons	5 persons	6 persons	7 persons	8 persons
$21,750	*$24,850*	*$27,950*	*$31,050*	*$33,550*	*$36,000*	*$38,500*	*$41,000*

APPLICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT ANY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING LISTED LOCATIONS DURING THEIR NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS. Applications will only be available January 25 –27, 2006.

1. Tacoma Housing Authority, Salishan Office, 1728 East 44th Street, Tacoma, WA
2. Tacoma Housing Authority, Main Office, 902 South L Street, Tacoma, WA
3. Indochinese Cultural and Service Center, 1724 East 44th Street, Tacoma, WA
4. Tacoma Community House, 1314 South L Street, Tacoma, WA
5. Martin Luther King Housing Development Association, 1143 Tacoma Ave, S., Tacoma, WA
6. Centro Latino, 1208 South 10th Street, Tacoma, WA
7. TACID, 6315 South 19th Street, Tacoma, WA

Returned applications must be date stamped by THA or postmarked by

FEBRUARY 1, 2006

APPLICATIONS returned by US Mail will be date and time stamped when received by THA

Selection for public housing is determined first by THA local preferences then by date and time THA receives the application.

Return to: TACOMA HOUSING AUTHORITY, PUBLIC HOUSING WAIT LIST, 1728 East 44th Street, TACOMA, WA 98404
TACOMA HOUSING AUTHORITY, PUBLIC HOUSING WAIT LIST, 902 South L Street, TACOMA, WA 98405

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* Pre -Advance Ticket Sale Jan - Mar 3rd $ 25.00 *

After Mar 3rd Reg Price $35.00

Contact Parker Promotions 206 525 5354

Get The Power At The "Women of Power Conference Cruise 2006"

Minister Yolanda Burroughs
The Fountain of Praise Church

D Tyler Brown,
Gospel Spoken Word Artist

Wake up...arise from the dead! Attendees will be refreshed and restored at the Women of Power Conference. They will experience the anointed voices of gospel singers Denise Wolford "When Your # Comes" and Mildred Murphy Sias, "My God is Real," the presentation style of gospel spoken word artist Lady "D" Tyler Brown, powerful words of exhortation and teaching by the creative style of Pastor Lisa Tarpley, deliverance and healing ministry of Bishop Maude Lewis and the "Count Me In" Minister Yolanda Burroughs of The Fountain of Praise, Houston, Texas as you Worship on the Waters(TM) in 2006!

Worship on the Waters(TM) was initially designed to bring together people of all ages and all races from the Dallas/Ft. Worth Metroplex, Houston/Bay Area, Austin and San Antonio, Texas for fellowship and fun. However, people are now coming from cities all around the United States.

Those who participated in the first Worship on the Waters(TM) cruise, enjoyed the music and singing ministry of Darrell and LaTonja Blair, Tommye Young-West, Denise Wolford, Gaye Arbuckle-Sneed, Congregation of Praise, Sote' and national recording artist Beverly Crawford. All are invited to again be blessed on the next Worship on the Waters cruise and women's conference beginning May 1, 2006. The cruise will sail from Galveston, Texas for five nights to Cozumel and Calica/Playa Del Carmen, Mexico.

On opening night, attendees will join the "Women of Power Rally." Throughout the cruise, they will experience empowerment workshops, Tuesday Night Live! Light POWER Tip speakers, and Friday Night Hour of Power. Speakers and gospel artists also include: Minister Caledra Wortham, Meritta Farr Simmons, Minister Evelyn Drayton, Carmen M. Carter, and Minister Tamara Thomas and more. Reserve your cabin now with a deposit. Go to the Briscoe's Leisure Travel web site: www.leisurefuntravel.com

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(253)383-3461

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Church School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Service 11:00 a.m.
Children age 3-11 & Youth Church age 12-18
High Noon Service 12:00 p.m. (Wed. Only)
Bible Study (All Ages) & Worship Service (6:00 p.m.)
AWANA CLUB (Every Friday) 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. (3 - 11)
Youth Late Night (2nd & 4th Friday)

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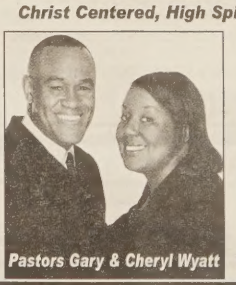

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253-383-5821 (for van service)

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Sunday Morning Worship	@11:00am
Tuesday Evening Bible Reading	@7:00pm
Thursday Evening Bible Reading	@7:00pm

Visit us on the Web @ www.surehouselive.com & www.garylwyatt.com

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Deacons' Ministry	Women's Ministry
Deaconess Ministry	Ushers' Ministry
Trustee Ministry	Music Ministry
Laymen-Brotherhood	Boy Scouts Ministry
Knowledge Kollege Daycare	Food Bank Ministry
Board of Christian Education	Clothes Closet Ministry

SUNDAY
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Worship Services:
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12:00 Noon & 6:30 p.m.
Prayer Meeting: 7:30 p.m.

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9:30 A.M. Sunday Church School
11:00A.M. Worship Service
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Wednesday Bible Study 6:00 P.M.
Youth Bible Study Glory nd2nd and 4th Sunday s 2:30 P.M

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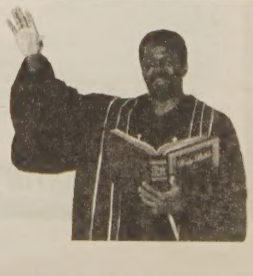
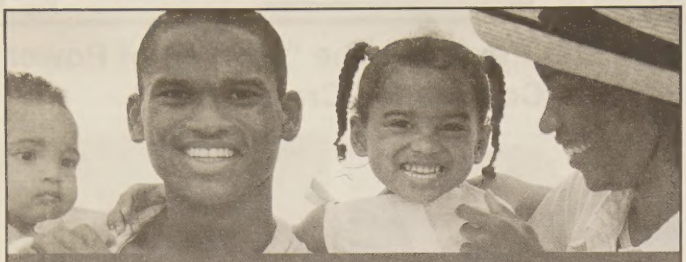
Ministry - *An on going service to God and people.*

Ministry can be anything from working in the church nursery, volunteering at a homeless shelter or cleaning the pews to teach Sunday School, leading a Bible study or planting churches overseas.



Get on board!

Join the praise page. Let Pierce County know where they can get ***Spiritually Connected!***
Include your church in the Church Directory , ***Call For More Info (253) 383-3832***



Health Care in Communities of Color:

Keys to Healthy Living: Mind, Body and Soul

Join us for a FREE health event especially for communities of color:

Saturday, February 18
9:00am – 3:00pm
Oasis of Hope
1937 S. G Street, Tacoma

- Free Health Screenings
- Guest Speakers
- Ethnic Vendors and Education Booths
- YWCA Teen Workshops for 12–18 Year Olds
- Complimentary Continental Breakfast and Lunch

Call by February 15 to register: Ethlyn Gibson, RN (253) 403-1401

Heart disease, hypertension and diabetes are major health concerns for minority populations. The good news is that despite the increased incidence of chronic disease in minority communities, the KEY is working together as partners to develop the solutions, and this workshop is one of those beginning solutions. Please join the Health Coalition for Communities of Color, MultiCare and various community partners for a fun, educational event and find out how a holistic approach to wellness can make a difference in your life.

Community Partners in this outreach program include:

American Heart Association. Fighting Heart Disease and Stroke

MultiCare

Pierce County GETS FIT

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Health Coalition for Communities of Color; Tacoma Chapter Links, Inc.; Jack & Jill of America, Inc.; Sororities & Fraternities of the Pan Hellenic Council; St. John Baptist Church Health Care Ministry; Greater Christ Temple Health Ministry; Tacoma Black Collective; American Diabetes Association; State Commission on African American Affairs; Tacoma Ministers Alliance; Tacoma Pierce County Health Department; A&M Beauty Supply & Salon; YMCA Morgan and Tacoma Center Branch Staff; and many more...

Using Your Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage

As the new year begins, people with Medicare who have already joined a Medicare drug plan can take advantage of the new Medicare prescription drug coverage. Since this is a new program for Medicare, you might have questions about how to use your Medicare drug plan. For instance, what if you joined a plan but haven't received a plan ID card in the mail yet? Or, what if your drugs were covered by Medicaid and you're not sure how to get your medicines now? Whatever questions you have, Medicare has answers.

First Pharmacy Trip

Here are some tips people with Medicare can use to make sure their first trip to the pharmacy goes smoothly:

- When you first join a Medicare drug plan, you'll get an acknowledgement letter in the mail about a week after you join. Your plan ID card should arrive three to five weeks later.
- If you need to go to the pharmacy before your ID card arrives, bring the acknowledgement letter from your plan, your Medicare and/or Medicaid card, and a photo ID.
- Save the receipts from your pharmacist.
- For additional assistance, call 1-800-MEDICARE, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

People with Medicare and Medicaid

If your pharmacist is having trouble confirming what plan you're in or whether you also get Medicaid, he can also call a special toll-free number that Medicare set up for pharmacists to get help. People with Medicare who also get Medicaid should be able to get their prescriptions filled with minimal copayments and no deductibles.

How to Join a Plan

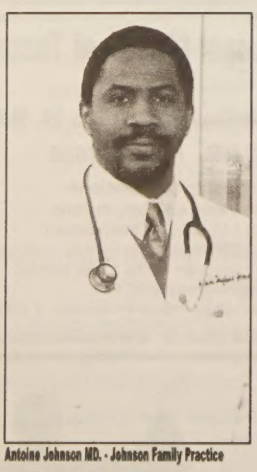
If you haven't joined a Medicare drug plan yet, don't worry. You have until May 15, 2006 to choose and join a plan without having to pay a penalty. Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227; TTY users call 1-877-486-2048) to learn about your options for getting the coverage you need, and the convenience and peace of mind you deserve. You can also visit www.medicare.gov on the Web.

This information prepared by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

VA Reaches Out To Veterans Of All Generations

One of the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) highest priorities is ensuring that America's 24 million veterans are aware of the benefits available to them as a result of their military service. VA is reaching out particularly to veterans who have an injury or medical condition they believe is related to their active military service to encourage them to contact their local VA regional office for information about the VA Disability Compensation Program. VA wants to do everything possible for the nation's newest veterans coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan, and also make sure that the veterans who served in earlier periods, wartime or peacetime, are not overlooked. Even veterans of conflicts long past who have never filed a claim for disability benefits may still be eligible, and VA regional office employees across the nation can assist them. Veterans who received a VA disability compensation rating many years ago and whose service-related disabilities have progressed in severity should also contact their local regional office for assistance in submitting a claim for increased benefits. VA efforts to inform veterans about their disability compensation benefits face a special challenge with older veterans who may not have been in touch with VA for decades, or who may not be aware of the entire range of expanded veterans' benefits available to them or their families. Veterans should not hesitate to contact VA and apply for the benefits they have earned in service to our country. While VA cannot guarantee that all benefits claims will be granted, VA cannot grant benefits unless veterans file or reopen their claims. Veterans and their families may call the VA toll free at 800-827-1000 or visit the veterans benefits Web site at http://www.vba.va.gov/. Claims for disability compensation or other benefits may be filed in person, electronically, or by mail. VA also encourages veterans to seek assistance from the various national, state and local veterans groups and service organizations. Information on veterans organizations can be obtained at http://www1.va.gov/vso/ or http://www.va.gov/partners/stateoffice/index.htm.

Johnson FAMILY PRACTICES



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Sleep May Be More Important Than You Think

If counting sheep is not working for you, here are some facts you may want to sleep on-chronic sleep deprivation can do more than make you tired. It can significantly affect your health, safety, performance, and lifestyle.

Most people are surprised to learn that sleeping less than six or seven hours a night can increase their mortality risk more than smoking, high blood pressure or heart disease.

Losing as little as one and a half hours of sleep for just one night could result in a reduction of daytime alertness by as much as 32 percent. This loss can impair memory and the ability to think and process information effectively.

Decreased alertness can also affect your life by limiting your participation in activities that require sustained attention, such as reading a book or watching your favorite TV show. And the risk of receiving an occupational injury more than doubles when a person is sleepy.

Car accidents are another problem. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimates conservatively that each year drowsy driving is responsible for at least 100,000 automobiles crashed, 71,000 injuries and 1,550 fatalities.

As many as 70 million Americans have sleep disturbances-which include taking a long time to get to sleep, sleeping less and waking up frequently.

Sleep disturbances may in fact be a symptom of a much larger problem, especially if they are associated with irritability and mood swings. Emotional stress, racing thoughts and restlessness can be signs of something more serious, such as bipolar disorder.

"If someone is experiencing restlessness and irritability, along with sadness or emotional ups and downs for more than two weeks," said Dr. Ellen Frank, professor of psychiatry and psychology, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and the Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic, "they should seek medical attention from a specialist who is trained to diagnose or perhaps just rule out depression or bipolar disorder."

The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA) has launched a new Web site, www. sleeplessinamerica.org, which offers educational resources that provide screening for sleeplessness, information on when to see a doctor and a questionnaire to determine when sleeplessness might be symptomatic of a more serious illness. The Web site is also available in Spanish.

For additional information on depression and bipolar disorder, as well as confidential self-screeners for both illnesses, visit DBSA's site at www.dbsalliance.org or call (800) 826-3632.

DBSA is a patient-directed advocacy organization for depression and bipolar disorder with more than 1,000 peer-run support groups nationwide. The organization's mission is to improve the lives of people living with mood disorders. Assisted by a 65-member Scientific Advisory Board comprised of the top researchers and clinicians in the field of mood disorders, the organization helps more than four million people each year.

Let your doctor know about any sleep problems you may have since they could be symptoms of a physical or mental condition.

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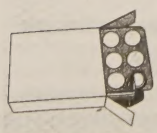

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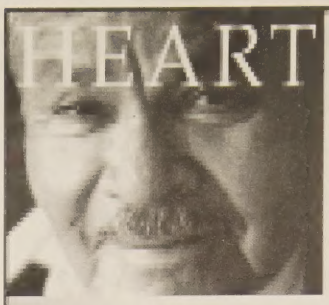
HEART DISEASE



"Yes, I'm at risk for heart disease and I take medication."

Do you have more than one of these risk factors for Heart Disease?
- high triglyceride levels
- low HDL
- high blood sugar levels
- high blood pressure

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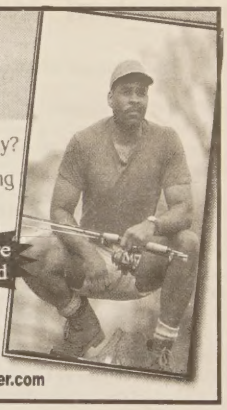

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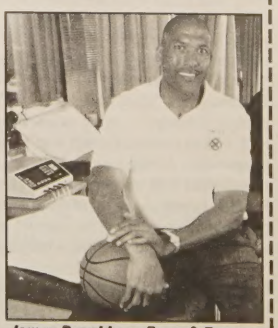
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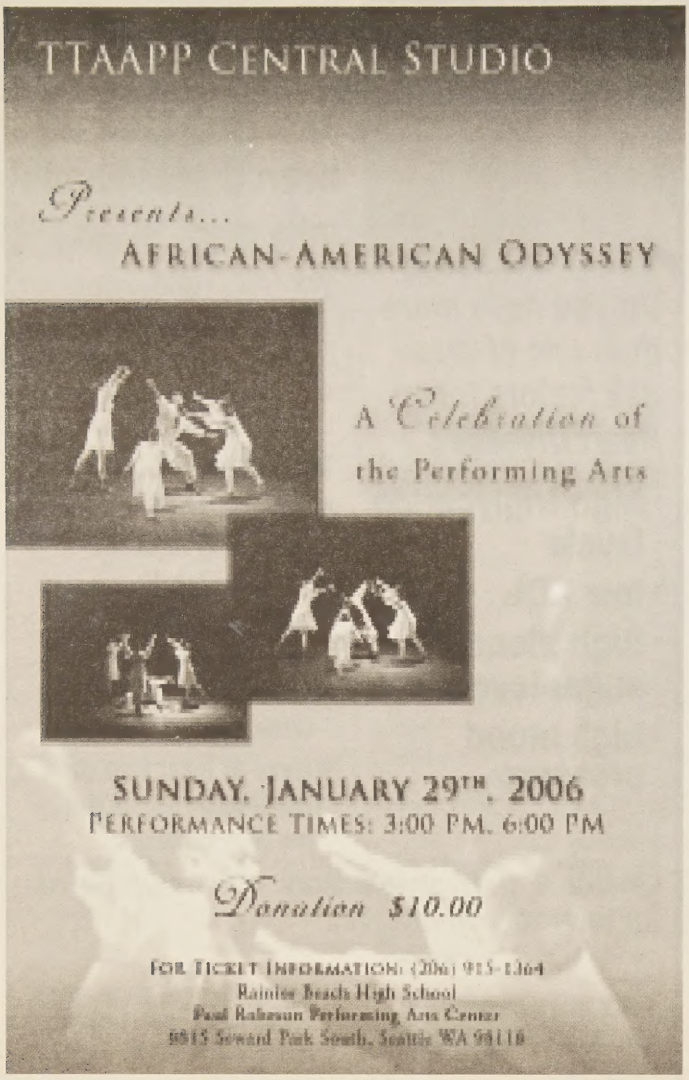
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'Wicked' Wilson Pickett dies at age 64

Soul pioneer's hits included 'In The Midnight Hour,' 'Mustang Sally'

Wilson Pickett, the soul pioneer best known for the fiery hits "Mustang Sally" and "In The Midnight Hour," died of a heart attack Thursday in a Reston, Va., hospital, according to his management company. He was 64.

Chris Tuthill of the management company Talent Source said Pickett had been suffering from health problems for the past year. Pickett lived in Ashburn, Va.

"He did his part. It was a great ride, a great trip, I loved him and I'm sure he was well-loved, and I just hope that he's given his props," Michael Wilson Pickett, the singer's son, told WRC-TV in Washington after his death.Pickett — known as the "Wicked Pickett" — became a star with his soulful hits in the 1960s. "In the Midnight Hour" made the top 25 on the Billboard pop charts in 1965 and "Mustang Sally" did the same the following year.

"A fellow Detroiter, Wilson Pickett was one of the greatest soul singers of all time," Aretha Franklin said in a statement. "He will absolutely be missed. I am thankful that I got the chance to speak to him not too long ago."

Pickett was defined by his raspy voice and passionate delivery. But the Alabama-born Pickett got his start singing gospel music in church. After moving to Detroit as a teen, he joined the group the Falcons, which scored the hit "I Found a Love" with Pickett on lead vocals in 1962.

He went solo a year later, and would soon find his greatest success. In 1965, he linked with legendary soul producer Jerry Wexler at the equally legendary soul label Stax Records in Memphis, and recorded one of his greatest hits, "In the Midnight Hour," for Atlantic Records. A string of hits followed, including "634-5789," "Funky Broadway" and "Mustang Sally." His sensuous soul was in sharp contrast to the genteel soul songs of his Detroit counterparts at Motown Records.Roger Friedman, a journalist and friend who featured Pickett in his 2002 documentary on soul greats, "Only the Strong Survive," said Pickett was "really Atlantic's answer to James Brown."

"He wrote his own songs ... he was very, very musically adept, and look at his contribution — look how many songs of his songs have been covered?" Friedman told The Associated Press on Thursday.

As Pickett entered a new decade, he had less success on the charts, but still had a few more hits, including the song "Don't Let The Green Grass Fool You."

"Like all these great legends of R&B, when disco came in, it really impacted their careers," Friedman said. "[But] what Americans don't realize is they have all continued to be incredibly popular in Europe — every summer, touring Europe to incredible crowds."

Still, Pickett suffered through some tough times. In 1991, he was arrested for allegedly yelling death threats while driving a car over the mayor's front lawn in Englewood, N.J., and less than a year later was charged with assaulting his girlfriend.

In 1993, he was convicted of drunken driving and sentenced to a year in jail and five years' probation after hitting an 86-year-old man with his car. In 1987, he was given two years' probation and fined $1,000 for carrying a loaded shotgun in his car.

Besides his induction into the Hall of Fame in 1991, he was also given the Pioneer award by the Rhythm and Blues Foundation two years later. He also cast a long shadow and served as a role model in "The Commitments" in 1991, without appearing in the film.

"If I wasn't in show business I don't know what I would have been — a wanderer or something, you know?" he said in a 2001 interview. "But God blessed me with the talent and the chance. I knocked on enough doors, and this is what I can give myself credit for."

Friedman said he had just spoken to Pickett last week and he seemed optimistic he would be able to put recent health troubles aside and perform again.

"We had just a great talk," he said. "He really wanted to get back to business."

NAS SIGNS RECORD DEAL WITH JAY-Z:

The former rivals lay down their swords to seal label deal.

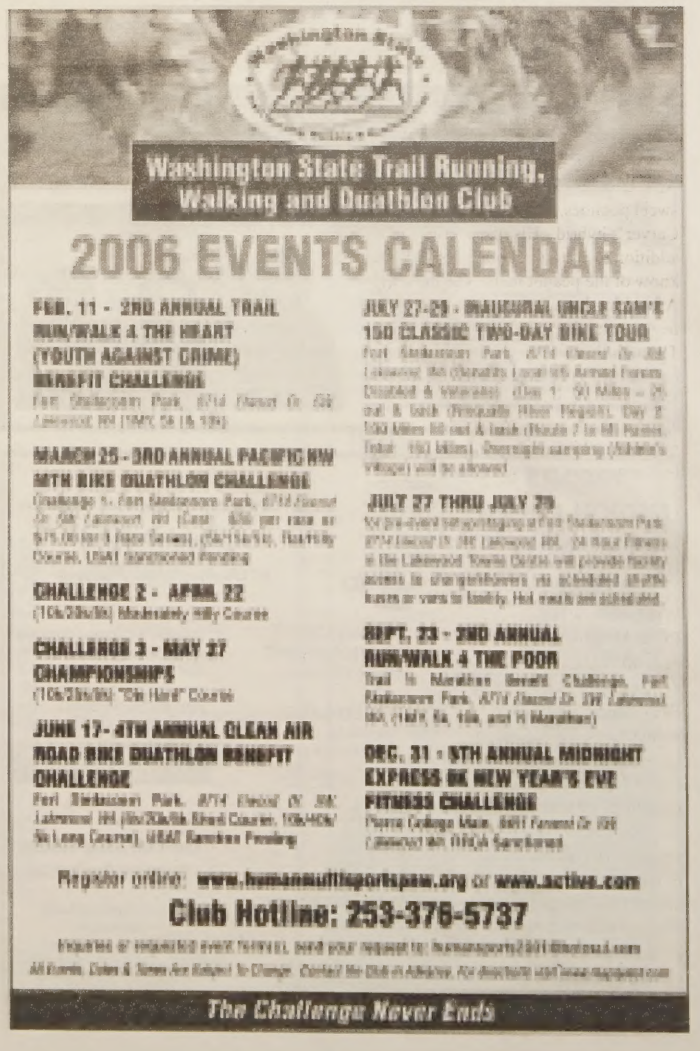
Following a surprise truce announced three months ago during a concert, longtime enemies Jay-Z and Nas have cemented their reconciliation with a new label deal that forces a working relationship between their respective labels.

According to the New York Times, Nas has signed a deal that will bring him to the Jay-Z run Def Jam Recordings label, a partnership in which Nas' label, Sony Music, and Def Jam will split the profits (or losses) from Nas' next two albums.

Under the deal, Def Jam will foot the bill for producing and marketing Nas' albums, then divide the profits with Sony after expenses are recovered, reports the Times. Both labels will join forces to create and carry out the marketing campaigns for the records.

Nas is tapped to pocket around $3 million under the deal for each of the two albums (which includes a recording budget), and has a clause providing for two additional albums for Def Jam.

The first hint of a Nas/Jay-Z union came last Oct. 27 during Jigga's Power 105.1 "Powerhouse 2005: Operation Takeover" show at the Continental Airlines Arena in New Jersey. Expected to put Nas on blast during his set – as he did four years earlier at a Hot 97 concert that launched the beef – Jay-Z instead invited God's Son onstage to perform with him, telling the crowd: "All that beef sh*t is done, we had our fun. ... Let's get this money."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Study Finds That Marriage Builds Wealth

Marrying for money, it turns out, works. A study by an Ohio State University researcher shows that a person who marries - and stays married - accumulates nearly twice as much personal wealth as a person who is single or divorced.

And for those who divorce, it's a bit more expensive than giving up half of everything they own. They lose, on average, three-fourths of their personal net worth.

"Getting married for a few years and then getting divorced is clearly not the path to financial independence," said Jay Zagorsky, whose study divided married couples' assets so they could be compared with singlesZagorsky, a research scientist at OSU's Center for Human Resource Research, tracked the wealth and marital status of 9,055 people from 1985 to 2000. Those people have been participating in the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, which has repeatedly interviewed them about various aspects of their lives since 1979.

The participants are now 41 to 49 years old, making them the youngest of the baby boomers.

Zagorsky cautioned that results could be different for older and younger Americans, who have faced different attitudes about marriage, divorce and living together without marriage.

Zagorsky's study, which is published in the current issue of the Journal of Sociology, defines wealth as the total value of a person's assets, such as real estate, stocks and bank accounts, minus liabilities, such as mortgages.

A big reason married people accumulate more wealth than others is simple economies of scale - one household is cheaper to maintain than two, Zagorsky said. Divorce reverses those benefits, he said.

"Divorce looks like one of the fastest ways to destroy your wealth," Zagorsky said.

David Popenoe, co-director of the National Marriage Project at Rutgers University, said people become more economically productive after they marry.

"They work harder, they advance further in their job, they save more money, and maybe invest more wisely," Popenoe said. "That's because, one can speculate, they are now working for something larger than themselves. They are working for a family."

Zagorsky showed that single people slowly accumulated wealth during the study, going from a median of $1,500 at the start to $10,900 in the 15th year.

Married people accumulated wealth much faster, accumulating 93 percent more than single or divorced people over the life of the study, Zagorsky said.

People who divorced started losing net worth four years before their divorces were final, Zagorsky said. That could be because they had separated before divorcing, forcing them to support two households, he said.

The study found that men fared better than women after divorce, holding about 2 1/2 times the wealth. However, in dollars, it added up to a difference of only $5,124.

"While men come out slightly ahead, divorce destroys wealth dramatically for both sexes," Zagorsky wrote in his study.

Food for thought ... *By Brother Abdullah Ali*

HAPPY BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Following graduation in 1894, from Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, Brother G. W. Carver began an exhaustive series of experiments with peanuts, sweet potatoes, and soybeans then he developed a new type of cotton known as Carver's hybrid. His discoveries induced Southern farmers to raise other crops in addition to cotton. Brother also taught methods of soil improvement. Most people know of the peanut man. The most precious resource of any people is their HISTORY. A working knowledge of the lives and the accomplishments of our fore-bearers and our resent struggle provide us, not merely just a look back, but also a look INWARD. Through this insight we are able to attain a greater appreciation of our own possibilities (OURSELVES). Sister Hatshepsut is the first woman in recorded history to rule over a Nation. Sister cast aside the theory of male supremacy and promoted both industry and agriculture within Kemet or what we today call Egypt. Sister Hatshepsut remains very much alive as one of our Mothers who are remembered as an Egyptian Queen, based on the writings on the walls of temples that continue to stand today. Roy Wilkins who played an important role in the historic march on Washington, DC in 1963. Thurgood Marshall who said "Much remains to be done, this Nation has the resources and know how to ABOLISH HUNGER and POVERTY, REPLACE SLUMS with DECENT HOUSING and PROVIDE QUALITY EDUCATION and ADEQUATE HEALTH SERVICES". All that is missing is the WILL to do for self. We must provide that WILL now. WHY during the month set aside for BLACK HISTORY IS The Honorable Elijah Muhammad disrespected and ignored by his people? OUR Brother dedicated over 40 years of his life to the uplifting of the Black Family. A man who Readers digest stated, "This mild-looking man is the most powerful Black Man in America. The Honorable Elijah Muhammad, preached Heaven at once through unity and self-sufficiency. He built Temples and schools to teach us of the higher sciences and the knowledge of self. From this knowledge, farms were acquired to grow healthy crops without harmful chemicals. Chicken and egg factories, herds of cattle for appropriate slaughter and dairy cows. Stores and warehouses were built to preserve food throughout the seasons. What other Black leader achieved such accomplishments for his people? His works are unmatched in any HISTORY!! Why Brother is not mentioned or honored during any time of our lives, is due to our present day mind set. Let us become one who loves and acts on truth. Knowledge must have an objective, when you know something, the thing you know must exist. When you find the love for wisdom, you will find the passion for the knowledge of self and through research (work) you will find your HAPPY BLACK HISTORY! As-Salaam Alaikum (peace be into You)

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